Organisation (WTO) regime, had come to an end on January 1, 2005; and

(b) if so, how India, China and others concerned stand to gain or lose thereby?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) As per WTO Agreement on Textiles & Clothing (ATC), the textile quota regime has been phased out and textile sector fully integrated into WTO on 1st January 2005.

India's textiles and clothing exports in the post regime will be driven by value added made-ups & apparels as India has comparative advantages over its competitors in relation to (i) availability of relatively inexpensive and skilled workforce (ii) design expertise (iii) large production base of basic raw materials.

Ban Imposed by USA

290. SHRI RK MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has imposed a ban on import of suit, under garments and a number of other garments from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact on Export of Indian garments as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Investment in Textiles sector

291. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile sector needs a huge capital investment of Rs. 27,000 crores, within the next 2 years, to compete with other countries, with the phasing out of the quota regime this year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to meet the target?